

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, December 23, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, December 23, 2025 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and Bayard Transcript on December 18, 2025. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current, were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on December 18, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Some of the Elected and appointed Officials were also present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda, and the minutes of the December 5, 2025 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There was no correspondence.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,359.68; \$1,359.68; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$9,139.68; \$8,850.20; AT & T Mobility, Service, \$390.77; Bemis Drug, Medical-Prisoners, \$18.25; Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial, Supplies, \$94.60; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$1,473.98; Blue360 Media, LLC, Registration, \$403.62; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Repairs & Supplies, \$94.46; Kathy Brandt, Meals & Mileage, \$396.06; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$6.34; Capital Business Systems, Data Processing Costs, \$137.25; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,220.14; Century Business Products, Supplies, \$126.44; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$2,894.34; Clerk of Dist Court, Court Costs, \$189.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$4,271.56; Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, Snyder, Etc, Court Appointed Counsel, \$180.00; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Jackson's Garage LLC, Repairs, \$79.61; J13 Enterprises LLC, Budget, \$4,004.41; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; LPI, Publishing, \$161.25; Tim Marquez, Mileage, \$135.80; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$476.00; Meritain Health, Insurance, \$35,304.49; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,293.92; \$2,293.92; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$30,683.96; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$426.80; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$267.65; National Sheriff's Assoc, Law Enforcement Costs, \$129.00; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Lodging, \$25.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$274.16; \$236.31; \$236.31; NE Weed Control Assoc, Dues, \$150.00; Jailyn Nichols, Misc, \$150.00; Sarah Paisley, Meals & Mileage, \$193.30; Candace D. Panas, Supplies, \$91.57; Zeth Patterson, Supplies, \$18.00; Karen Petersen, Mileage, \$126.70; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$797.91; \$797.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$15,177.56; \$14,649.54; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$261.59; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs & Equip, \$501.00; U S Bank, Data Processing Equip, Meals, Fuel, Dues, Uniforms, Board of Prisoners, Law Enforcement Costs, Supplies & Misc, \$3,489.66; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Fuel, \$54.29; Western States Sheriff's Assoc, Law Enforcement Costs, \$100.00; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$342.55; General Employees, Salaries, \$72,728.55; \$71,678.65.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Accelerated Receivables Solutions, Garnishment, \$200.42; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; \$663.73; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,810.04; \$3,801.49; B & C Steel Corp, Steel Products, \$461.17; Bar-Nine Prospects LLC, Gravel, \$534.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Tools, \$811.04; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$60.00; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Scott Cape, Gravel, \$310.00; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$201.43; Century Link, Service, \$278.52; Charter Communications, Service, \$119.99; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; \$22.16; Ray Cranmore, Gravel, \$1,900.00; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$2,048.70; Dooley Oil Inc, Oil & Supplies, \$559.82; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires, \$3,246.11; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Harbor Freight Comm Acct, Tools, \$107.95; Hary W. Henkel, Gravel, \$1,695.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs, \$118.22; Mike Linch, Gravel, \$1,289.60; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$238.00; Menards-Scottsbluff, Equip, \$319.92; Meritain Health, Insurance, \$17,410.28; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,139.47; \$1,139.47; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$16,842.44; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$271.60; NE Public Power Dist, Service, \$66.40; Bob Noonan, Gravel, \$694.40; Oregon Trail Plumbing, Heating, Etc, Repairs, \$13,611.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal

Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,192.08; \$7,171.75; Mary Pohl, Gravel, \$1,314.40; Powerplan, Supplies, \$1,434.63; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$128.62; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$244.23; Marjorie P. Schneider, Gravel, \$930.00; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$131.40; Owen D. Walker, Gravel, \$1,430.00; David A.Wiggins, Gravel, \$350.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$33,867.11; \$33,791.09.

HIGHWAY BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND

Croell Redi Mix Inc, Road Projects, \$1,263.50; Gary Wagoner, Road Projects, \$7,545.00.

MORRILL COUNTY HEALTH FUND

Morrill Count Health Plan, Health Claims, \$83,024.79.

911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$101.62.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the above claims, after having been examined by the Commissioners, be approved and checks drawn on the various funds, delinquent personal property taxes deducted where owing. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The following 2025 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: November – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treas and S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

The November minutes of the Morrill/Scotts Bluff County Extension meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a resolution to transfer \$50,000.00 into the Road Fund. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-43
TRANSFER OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Road Fund monies were put into the General Fund at levy time, it is necessary to transfer those monies into the proper funds. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners orders the County Treasurer to transfer the funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 into the Road fund

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of December, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk-

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A 5311 Supplemental Agreement was received from Travis Rodak, Public Transit Director. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the agreement. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, received 4 Fuel Bids. The Bids were opened at 8:15 A.M. The bids were from Legacy, Sapp Brothers, Westco and Dooley. The bids were reviewed and compared. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to award the bid to Sapp Brothers. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board discussed getting a separate tank for the Sheriff's Department. They said they will help him get a fuel tank.

Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, presented an Expense Agreement for the County and Bridgeport Fire District to loan money to the Fire District to pay for the EMS services for 13 months to 3 years, until they can pay the County back. Kirk Varah and Dave Dermer, members of the Fire Department were present. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and have the Chairman sign the EMS Expense Agreement. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the November Financials to the Board. She said they are getting the \$883,000, from Medicare, that they are expecting and they still have three more quarters to go for them to catch up. The Commissioners congratulated the hospital being awarded a first in nation critical access hospital lab accreditation. Stuart said she is very proud of Rex Famitangco for achieving this for the hospital.

The Board reviewed the applications for Assessor. Metz said that Allison's contract is up on January 13, 2026. He said he didn't know if she could stay longer. The Board agreed to have interviews with the applicants and hold a Special Meeting on January 15th at 9:00 A.M.

Metz said that he thinks it is time to install time clocks for the offices. Brody Retchless, IT person, said he favored the touch pad or pin code. He said there is an individual stand alone pin code or thumbprint. Retchless said that the machines would be around \$900 for five. He said the software for the time clock runs about \$115 per month for 5 clocks. Metz said the time clocks will not work for the Sheriff's office or the Road Department. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to purchase Five Time Clocks. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Milo Cardenas, County Sheriff, presented to the Board a 3% increase for the salaries for 2027-2031 for the Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff and Attorney. He said the officials had met yesterday to come up with a salary increase. The last Resolution to set salaries was only for a 1 ½% raise which was not even a cost of living raise. These salaries have to be set by resolution before January 15, 2026. Metz said he does not want these resolutions to trigger the Pink Postcard. He also said if the county only allows us to raise our budgets by 2 ½% how can we give 3% to elected officials. The Board has until January to set the salaries. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Metz reported that it is time for Morrill County to appoint Lisa Peters, Deputy County Clerk, to be the HR Person for the County. He said that she is in charge of all of the paperwork for new employees and for people leaving all of the IRS reporting and explaining all of the insurance policies. Metz said he would like to pay her \$1000 per month which would increase the budget of the County Clerk by \$6,000 to start this in January. He said he had talked to Caleb Johnson and he will create a line item to be in the Clerk's budget. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt for creation of an HR Position and adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-44
RESOLUTION TO CREATE HR POSITION

WHEREAS, the Morrill Count Board of Commissioners has determined that it is necessary to create and maintain a Human Resources position for Morrill County and;

WHEREAS, the position is now falling on the Deputy County Clerk, it is necessary to establish a new position and to appoint Lisa M. Peters, Deputy County Clerk, as Human Resources Director;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that her salary starting January 1, 2026, be established at \$6,000 which is \$1,000 per month for the remainder of the 2025-2026 Budget year and a new line item to the budget for this position.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz

Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman

Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. A resolution to approve the new line item for the budget was presented. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve adding a new line item for the HR position to the budget and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-45
TRANSFER OF BUDGET AUTHORITY

WHEREAS: Morrill County has adopted the 2025-2026 Budget for the respective fiscal year, and

WHEREAS: The Morrill County Board of Commissioners wish to implement a new line code within the adopted budget to pay the part-time salary for a Human Resources Administrator (1-0401 Part-Time Administrator – HR), and

WHEREAS: The Morrill County Board of Commissioners wish to transfer budget authority from the Miscellaneous General Function 970; specifically line code 2-9900 in the amount of \$6,000.00 to the County Clerk Function 602.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners hereby transfers \$6,000.00 of budget authority from the Miscellaneous General Function 970; Miscellaneous 2-9900 to the County Clerk Function 602: 1-0401 Part-Time Administrative – HR.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2025.

MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the NACO Conference and the salary discussion. Batterman reported on the training in Sidney with Region 21 Emergency Management and meeting with a senator at NACO. Metz reported on the hospital meeting and meeting with the Fair Board and architect.

Cardenas asked if something could be done about the heat in the machine room. They will look at getting an exhaust fan installed.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 10:22 A.M. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

Board of Equalization
Tuesday, December 23, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:34 A.M., Tuesday, December 23, 2025 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript on December 18, 2025. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current, were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on December 18, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson and Sue Wiggins were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne Statute #77-1233-04(6) at 7:45 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented an Exemption for Cornerstone Church in Bayard. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Exemption. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Allison Rauch, Interim Assessor, presented Tax List Correction #2025-64, 65. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above corrections. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 7:50 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

